



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Pennsylvania Field Office
315 South Allen Street, Suite 322
State College, Pennsylvania 16801-4850



October 5, 1999

Ms. Camilla Keis Cornwell
Environmental Scientist
Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc.
9001 Edmonston Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Dear Ms. Cornwell:

This responds to your letter of September 1, 1999, requesting information about federally listed and proposed endangered and threatened species within the vicinity of a proposed environmental dredging study located in Lawrence County, Pennsylvania. The following comments are provided pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 884, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*) to ensure the protection of endangered and threatened species.

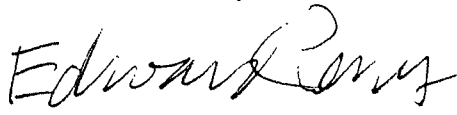
Except for occasional transient species, no federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species under our jurisdiction are known to occur within the project impact area. Therefore, no Biological Assessment or further Section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act will be required with the Fish and Wildlife Service. Should project plans change, or if additional information on listed or proposed species becomes available, this determination may be reconsidered. A compilation of certain federal status species in Pennsylvania is enclosed for your information.

This response relates only to endangered or threatened species under our jurisdiction based on an office review of the proposed project's location. No field inspection of the project area has been conducted by this office. Consequently, this letter is not to be construed as addressing potential Service concerns under the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act or other authorities.

Requests for information regarding State-listed endangered or threatened species should be directed to the Pennsylvania Game Commission (birds and mammals), the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (fish, reptiles, amphibians and aquatic invertebrates), and the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (plants).

Please contact Michael McCarthy of my staff at 814-234-4090 if you have any questions or require further assistance.

Sincerely,


for David Densmore
Supervisor

Enclosure

FEDERALLY LISTED, PROPOSED AND CANDIDATE SPECIES (in Pennsylvania)

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>STATUS*</u>	<u>DISTRIBUTION</u>
<u>FISHES</u>			
Shortnose sturgeon**	<i>Acipenser brevirostrum</i>	E	Delaware River and other Atlantic coastal waters
<u>REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS</u>			
Bog turtle	<i>Clemmys muhlenbergii</i>	T	Current - Adams, Berks, Bucks, Chester, Cumberland, Delaware, Franklin, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton and York Counties. Historic - Crawford, Mercer and Philadelphia Counties
<u>BIRDS</u>			
Bald eagle	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	Suitable habitats across the state. Recent nesting in Butler, Crawford, Dauphin, Erie, Forest, Lancaster, Mercer, Northumberland, Pike, Tioga, Venango, Warren and York Counties. Wintering concentrations occur in association with ice-free sections of rivers, lakes and reservoirs, including the Delaware River.
Piping plover	<i>Charadrius melodus</i>	E	Presque Isle (Erie County). Migratory. No nesting in Pennsylvania since mid-1950s.
<u>MAMMALS</u>			
Indiana bat	<i>Myotis sodalis</i>	E	Summer range: Blair, Elk, and McKean Counties. Winter hibernacula: Blair, Luzerne, Mifflin and Somerset Counties.
<u>MOLLUSKS</u>			
Clubshell mussel	<i>Pleurobema clava</i>	E	French Creek and Allegheny River watersheds; Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango and Warren Counties
Northern riffleshell	<i>Epioblasma torulosa rangiana</i>	E	French Creek and Allegheny River watersheds; Clarion, Crawford, Erie, Forest, Mercer, Venango and Warren Counties
<u>PLANTS</u>			
Northeastern bulrush	<i>Scirpus ancistrochaetus</i>	E	Current - Adams, Bedford, Blair, Carbon, Centre, Clinton, Cumberland, Dauphin, Franklin, Huntingdon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Lycoming, Mifflin, Monroe, Perry, Snyder and Union Counties. Historic - Northampton County
Small-whorled pogonia	<i>Isotria medeoloides</i>	T	Current - Centre and Venango Counties. Historic - Berks, Chester, Greene, Monroe, Montgomery and Philadelphia Counties

* E = Endangered, T = Threatened, PE = Proposed Endangered, PT = Proposed Threatened, C = Candidate
 ** Shortnose sturgeon is under the jurisdiction of the National Marine Fisheries Service

Revised 8/20/99

FEDERALLY LISTED SPECIES THAT NO LONGER OCCUR IN PENNSYLVANIA

<u>COMMON NAME</u>	<u>SCIENTIFIC NAME</u>	<u>STATUS**</u>	<u>FORMER DISTRIBUTION</u>
<u>MAMMALS</u>			
Delmarva Peninsula fox squirrel	Sciurus niger cinereus	E	mature forests of southeastern PA (Delaware and Chester Co.)
Eastern cougar	Felis concolor couguar	E	state-wide
Grey wolf	Canis lupus	E	state-wide
<u>MOLLUSKS</u>			
Dwarf wedge mussel*	Alasmodonta heterodon	E	Delaware River drainage
Fanshell*	Cyprogenia stegaria	E	Ohio River drainage
Orange pimpleback*	Plethobasus striatus	E	Ohio River drainage
Pink mucket pearly mussel*	Lampsilis abrupta	E	Ohio River drainage
Ring pink mussel*	Obovaria retusa	E	Ohio River drainage
Rough pigtoe*	Pleurobema plenum	E	Ohio River drainage
<u>INSECTS</u>			
American burying beetle	Nicrophorus americanus	E	state-wide
Karner blue butterfly	Lycaeides melissa samuelis	E	pine barrens, oak savannas (wild lupine habitat) (Wayne Co.)
Northeastern beach tiger beetle	Cicindela dorsalis dorsalis	T	along large rivers in southeastern PA
<u>PLANTS</u>			
Eastern prairie fringed orchid	Platanthera leucophaea	T	wet prairies, bogs (Crawford Co.)
Sensitive joint-vetch	Aeschynomene virginica	T	freshwater tidal marshes of Delaware river (Delaware and Philadelphia Co.)
Virginia spiraea*	Spiraea virginiana	T	along Youghiogheny River (Fayette Co.)
Smooth coneflower	Echinacea laevigata	E	serpentine barrens (Lancaster Co.)

* It is possible that remnant populations of some of these species (indicated with an *) may still occur in Pennsylvania, however, there have been no confirmed sightings of these species for over 70 years.

** E = Endangered, T = Threatened

The following is a partial list of additional species that no longer occur in Pennsylvania: moose, bison, lynx, wolverine, passenger pigeon, Bachman's sparrow, greater prairie-chicken, olive-sided flycatcher, Bewick's wren, eastern tiger salamander, blue pike, butterfly mussel, Diana fritillary butterfly, precious underwing moth, deertoe mussel, marbled underwing moth, cobblestone tiger beetle, mountain clubmoss, crested yellow orchid, red milkweed, American barberry, small white lady's-slipper, etc, etc.

BUREAU OF FISHERIES

Delano R. Graff, Director
(814) 359-5154
FAX: (814) 359-5153



DIVISION OF FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

Richard A. Snyder, Chief
(814) 359-5110
FAX: (814) 359-5153

IN REPLY REFER TO
PNDI# 3964

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
PENNSYLVANIA FISH & BOAT COMMISSION
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823-9620

September 30, 1999

GREENHORNE & O'MARA, INC.
Camilla Keis Cornwell
9001 Edmonston Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Dear Ms. Cornwell:

**RE: Environmental Impact Assessment - Rare, Candidate, Threatened, and Endangered Species
Environmental Dredging Reconnaissance Study for the Lower Mahoning River
Lawrence County, Pennsylvania**

I have examined the map accompanying your recent correspondence which shows the location for the proposed above referenced project.

Presently, none of the fishes, amphibians or reptiles we list as endangered or threatened are known to occur at or in the immediate vicinity of this study area.

To allow faster processing of PNDI reviews in the future, we are requesting that the attached form be completed and returned to this office together with other relevant project information. Please make copies of this form and use them whenever the need arises. Please note that the PFBC conducts PNDI reviews **only for reptiles, amphibians, fishes, and aquatic invertebrates**. Reviews concerning other natural resources must be submitted to other appropriate agencies. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Andrew L. Shiels
Nongame and Endangered Species Unit

kjd

Encl. (1)



COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

PENNSYLVANIA GAME COMMISSION

2001 ELMERTON AVENUE
HARRISBURG, PA 17110-9797

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAUS:

ADMINISTRATION	717-787-5670
AUTOMOTIVE AND PROCUREMENT DIVISION	717-787-6594
LICENSE DIVISION	717-787-2084
PERSONNEL DIVISION	717-787-7836
WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT	717-787-5529
INFORMATION & EDUCATION	717-787-6286
LAW ENFORCEMENT	717-787-5740
LAND MANAGEMENT	717-787-6818
REAL ESTATE DIVISION	717-787-6568
MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS	717-787-4076

October 28, 1999

Ms. Camilla Keis Cornwell
Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc.
901 Edmonston Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

In re: Environmental Review
Lower Mahaning River
Lawrence County, PA

Dear Ms. Cornwell:

This is in response to your letter dated September 1, 1999, requesting our review for potential impacts to state endangered or threatened species of birds or mammals, and State Game Lands.

Our office review shows that no state listed endangered or threatened species of birds or mammals are known to occur within the proposed project area. Also, no State Game Lands are expected to be impacted by the proposed project. Should project plans extend beyond the present study area, or if additional information becomes available on endangered or threatened species of birds or mammals or State Game Lands, this review may be reconsidered.

This reply relates only to endangered and threatened species of birds or mammals and State Game Lands, but does not address other concerns of the Pennsylvania Game Commission. If an on-site field investigation determines the project may impact critical and unique wildlife habitat such as wetlands, you may be requested to conduct additional surveys.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at (717) 783-5957.

Very truly yours,

Anthony S. Ross
Wildlife Impact Review Coordinator
Division of Environmental
Planning and Habitat Protection
Bureau of Land Management

ASR/pfb



Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Rachel Carson State Office Building

P.O. Box 8552

Harrisburg, PA 17105-8552

September 16, 1999

fax 717-783-5109

717-787-3444

Bureau of Forestry

Camilla Keis Cornwell
Greenhorne & O'Mara, Inc.
9001 Edmonston Road
Greenbelt, MD 20770

Re: Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory Review of Lower Mahoning River Environmental
Dredging Reconnaissance, Lawrence County, PA.

PER No.:008327

Dear Ms. Keis Cornwell:

In response to your request on September 1, 1999 the Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory (PNDI) information system was used to gather information regarding the presence of resources of special concern within the referenced site. PNDI records indicate potential impact to several species of special concern in the project vicinity.

Prenanthes crepidinea, Crepis rattlesnake root, is a Pennsylvania endangered plant. It was last seen in 1998 in a small wooded floodplain between the Mahoning River and a cultivated field near Robinson.

Based on the information we have received regarding the project our office recommends that a site survey be conducted by a qualified botanist before the onset of any earth disturbance associated with the project, in order to confirm or deny the presence of this species in the project area. Please contact the office with the results of the survey and to set up a field visit to discuss measures necessary to avoid impact to the species.

Because of the close proximity of the project to several bivalves of special concern, our office recommends that you contact **Andy Shiels** of the Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission (814) 359-5113 for recommendations on potential impact on endangered animals in the area.

Stewardship

Partnership

Service

September 16, 1999

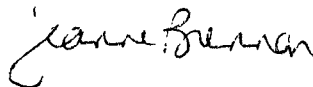
Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission
Bureau of Fisheries and Engineering
450 Robinson Lane
Bellefonte, PA 16823

This response represents the most up-to-date summary of the PNDI data files and is applicable for one year. However, an absence of recorded information does not necessarily imply actual conditions on site. A field survey of any site may reveal previously unreported populations. Should project plans change or additional information on listed or proposed species become available this determination may be reconsidered.

PNDI is a site specific information system that describes significant natural resources of Pennsylvania. This system includes data descriptive of plant and animal species of special concern, exemplary natural communities and unique geological features. PNDI is a cooperative project of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, The Nature Conservancy, and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy.

Please phone this office if you have questions concerning this response or the PNDI system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jeanne Brennan".

Jeanne Brennan
Environmental Review Specialist
Pennsylvania Natural Diversity Inventory